

**Title:** Decentralization in order to better serve the children!

**Date:** January 2005

**Department:** Education

**Description:** Providing all the children in the country with quality basic education is not an easy task. Mali advocates decentralization of educational system to encourage its expansion.

**Geographical area:** Mali

**Writer Info:** Douglas Lehman, dlehman@edc.org, 223-619-1765

**Keywords:** Decentralization, RAP-DMP, AE, MOE

**Content:**

In Mali today, 1.2 million children are enrolled in schools . . . and 1.6 million children are not!! How can Education For All be achieved? The strategy USAID is advocating through the Regional Action Plan / Decision-Making Program (RAP-DMP) helps the Ministry of Education's (MOE) regional and local offices perform better in the areas of planning, management and monitoring. For many years now, huge amounts of money are being spent to build capacities in the sector. However, on the ground, it has been observed that resources are mismanaged or poorly allocated, and that the demand for education by far exceeds the supply. Therefore, the solution is to help the MOE structures become more effective in their support to local communities.

The RAP-DMP supports the decentralization work already underway in the MEN. With a "Just-in-time" strategy, the RAP-DMP will help central-level officials provide field offices with training and monitoring services. Each year, RAP-DMP will conduct an inventory of competencies to be transferred and will endeavor to provide the tools, techniques, guidelines and facilities essential to the smooth transfer. RAP-DMP will secure technical and logistic support for the MOE to facilitate and speed up the deconcentration/decentralization process of the educational system, particularly in the following areas: (i) development of Regional Education Action Plans, (ii) implementation and monitoring of action plans, (iii) building the capacities of the regional Education Academies and the local *Centres d'Animation Pédagogique (CAP)* to provide support to local communities, and (iv) building the AEs capacity to obtain funding for the action plan activities. The RAP-DMP began in September 2004 and ends in August 2009.